



Centreville
Immigration
Forum

Centreville Immigration Forum

ANNUAL REPORT

*A Project of the
Centreville Immigration Forum*

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017



A letter from

The Board of Directors

Centreville Immigration Forum marked our 7th year in 2017. We reaffirmed our vision: “a community that provides acceptance and opportunity for all immigrants.” Thanks to all of you—staff, participants, donors, and volunteers—who share this vision and support our work!

In 2017 the CIF Board

- Continued to work for full inclusion of both English and Spanish speakers in all Board meetings.
- Increased overall giving with addition of new foundation donors.
- Expanded partnerships with other nonprofits, including:
 - Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, National Day Labor Organizing Network, and Virginia Coalition for Immigration Reform.
- Introduced a new, professionally designed website.
- Improved data on Labor Center operations with professional upgrades to our Sales Force system,

- and implementation of a new member-card system.
- Completed a full financial audit for 2015 and 2016.

The CIF Board and Personnel Committee addressed staffing needs by hiring John Cano as Community Organizer. Since joining the staff in February, he has expanded the Centreville Commission on Labor Justice (CCLJ) and become a state-level spokesman for changes to laws that allow wage theft to occur. The Personnel Committee also began recruiting for a new Labor Center Manager after the resignation of Jasmine Blaine-Garcia in October. Many thanks to Daniel Guzman, who stepped into the role of Interim Director during the search.

In 2017, CIF stepped up its leadership in advocacy. With the leadership of Executive Director Terry Angelotti, we formed the Western Fairfax Immigration Strategy Group. This is a forum for faith groups, nonprofits, government agencies and local advocacy groups to share information and talk with leaders about the impact of current immigration policies on the whole community. During the

past year, the Strategy Group met with local government officials, police, experts in immigration law and others.

Organizational strength and advocacy for immigrants continue to be our areas of emphasis for 2018. Our success is possible through the dedicated work of our great staff and wonderful volunteers! Thanks to all of you, CIF continues to work toward our vision.

ALICE FOLTZ
BOARD PRESIDENT

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Read our
Mission Statement



THE CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM (CIF) IMPLEMENTS SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS THAT:



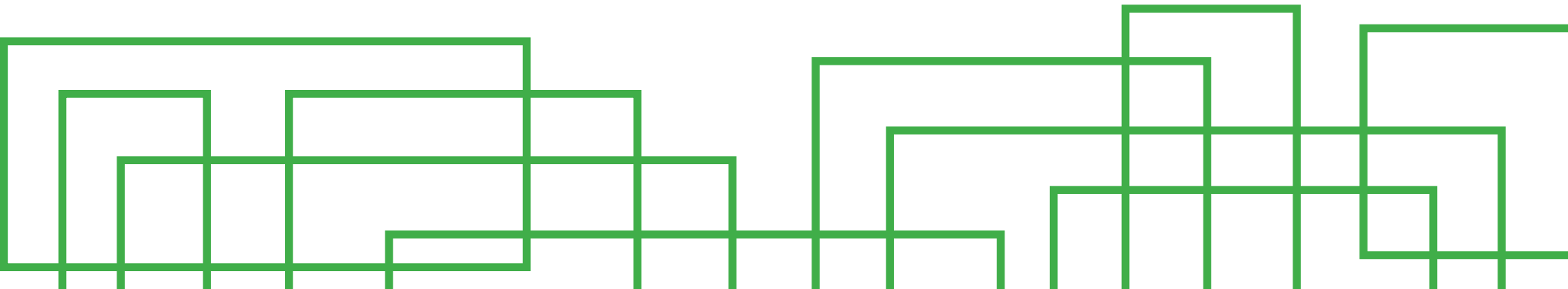
Provide immigrants with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community,



Improve communication and cooperation among all groups serving immigrants, and



Build community recognition of our strength in diversity.





Our Impact at the

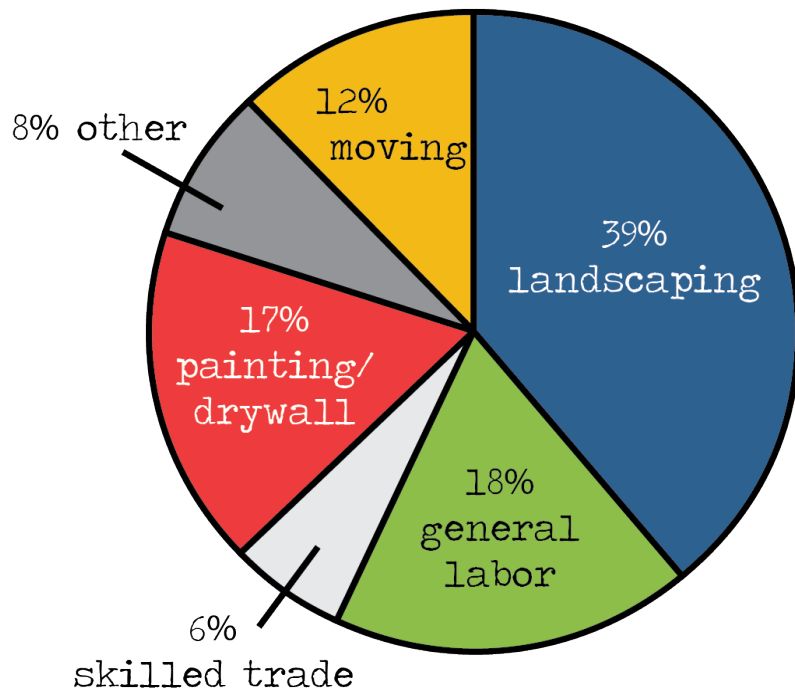
Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC)

235

workers came to the Center total, averaging 16 members per day.

1,384

jobs were arranged by CLRC in 2017



57%

is our average monthly hiring rate for April to September. Our highest rate was 70% in April.

THE JOBS

Wages



Suggested wages for CLRC:

\$15

unskilled labor

\$17

skilled labor

\$120

flat rate fee for day jobs
up to 8 hours

4 hrs

minimum for hourly jobs

Many employers are willing to pay more than the minimum because of the good reputation that our members have with them.

AVERAGE WAGES 2017	
<i>Flat rate</i>	<i>\$62.89</i>
<i>Per day</i>	<i>\$132.84</i>
<i>Per hour</i>	<i>\$15.20</i>





Learning English



When individuals first register at the Labor Center, 77% say they have no understanding or very limited understanding of English. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes have been offered since the CLRC opened, and continued throughout 2017. That year, 165 individuals took advantage of the opportunity to improve their English language skills. Our volunteer teachers offered not only morning drop-in classes while the Labor Center was open, but also more formal ESOL classes after hours, one evening each week. The morning classes were held for the workers that were waiting for jobs at the Center, but other members of the community sometimes participated. Instead of a textbook, participants used picture dictionaries and other materials to learn practical, conversational English. The Thursday evening class had a textbook, and participants signed up for an entire session.

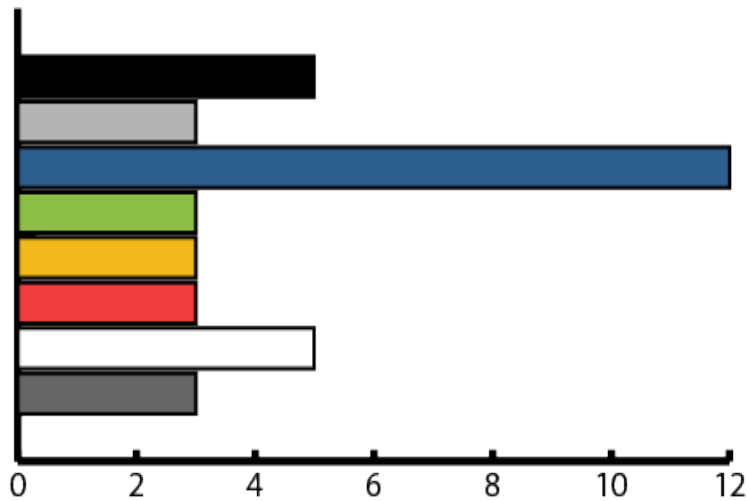
A good teacher is not all it takes to make learning another language possible. Motivation is key. Take, for example, Juan. Juan speaks four different languages, although he cannot read or write well in any of them except English. How has he achieved literacy in a language other than his native language? The music of Bryan Adams. Juan has a notebook full of handwritten Bryan Adams lyrics. Juan states that he can read and write in English largely because of these copying exercises. Juan taught himself English because no one told him he couldn't. His tenacity, with a little help from CIF and Bryan Adams, made it possible.

Member ID Cards

In August, 2017, CLRC began implementing an ID card membership system, a best practice used at other labor centers around the country. The ID card system allows for better tracking of who is available for work and who has been assigned to a job. It also provides our members with a photo ID card that includes their full legal name and birthdate. The back of the ID card displays local businesses where members can get a 10% discount on goods or services when they show their ID. Members pay \$30 for the card. By the end of the year, 161 members had purchased ID cards.

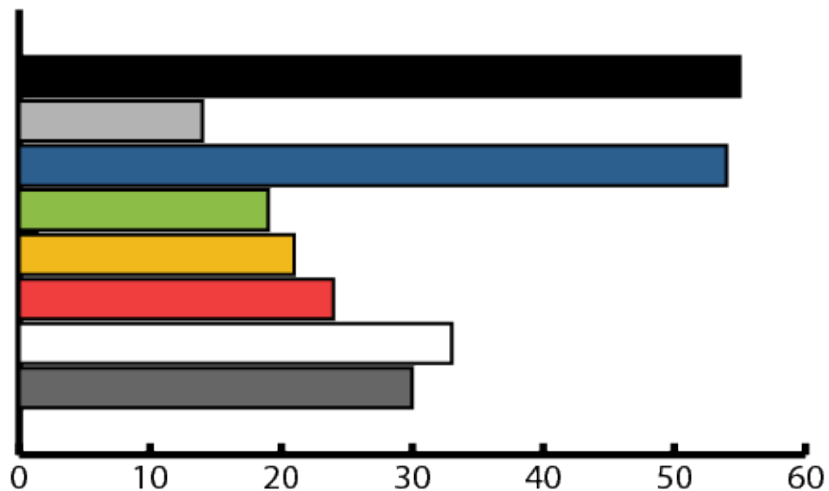
Other Training

Number of Classes



The CLRC focuses not only on providing a place for members and employers to meet and negotiate, but also on job training and education. In addition to English as a Second Language classes, other education opportunities included classes on financial literacy, health and safety, legal issues, and transportation. Worker Assemblies, or Asambleas, are held to discuss rules and policies and take the lead in operation and program decisions.

Number of Participants



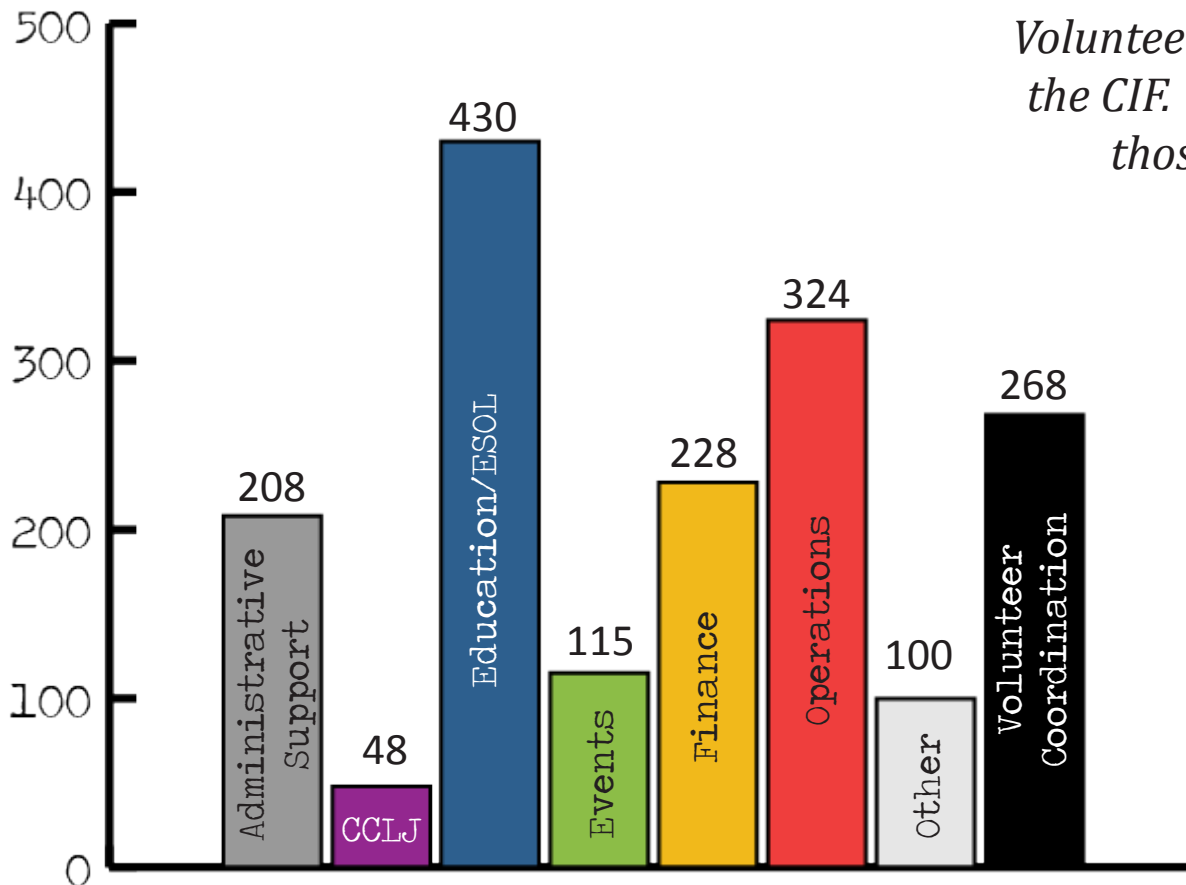
-  Asambleas
-  Wage Theft Prevention
-  Family Reunification
-  Health & Safety
-  Know Your Rights
-  Leadership
-  Trades Training
-  Transportation



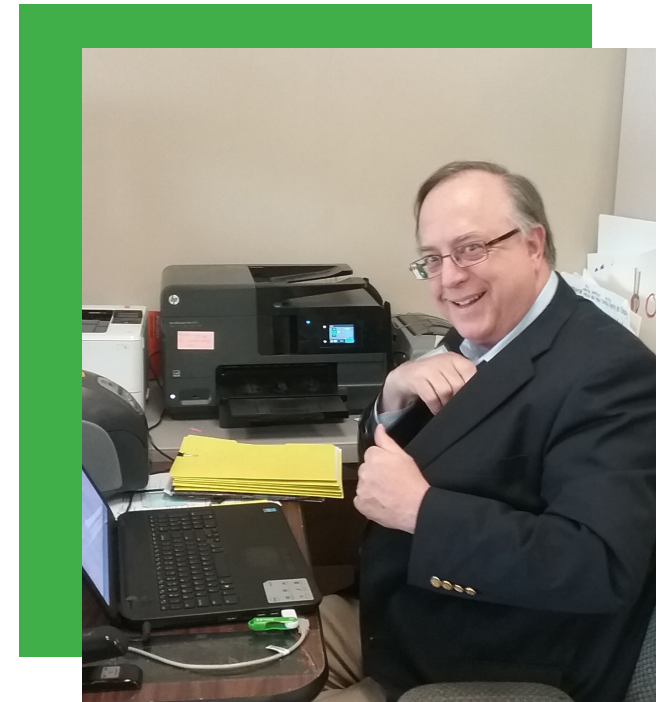
We appreciate
Our Volunteers

1,721

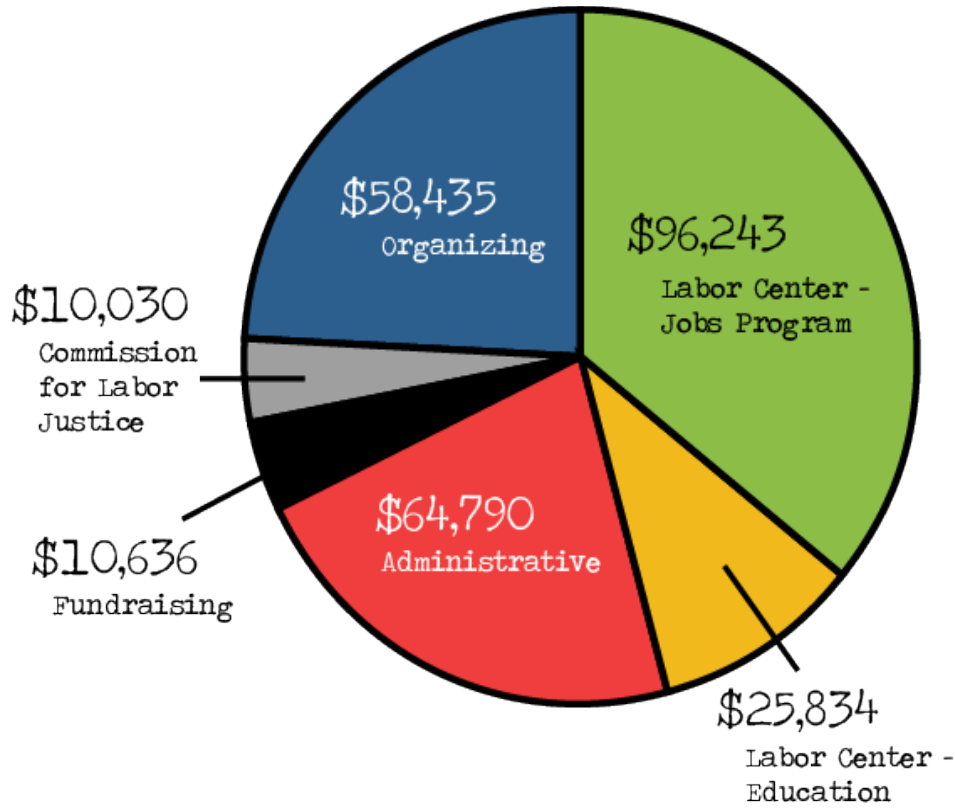
Total hours donated by our volunteers in 2017



Volunteers were instrumental in all aspects of the CIF. This graph is a breakdown of where those volunteer hours were focused.



Budget

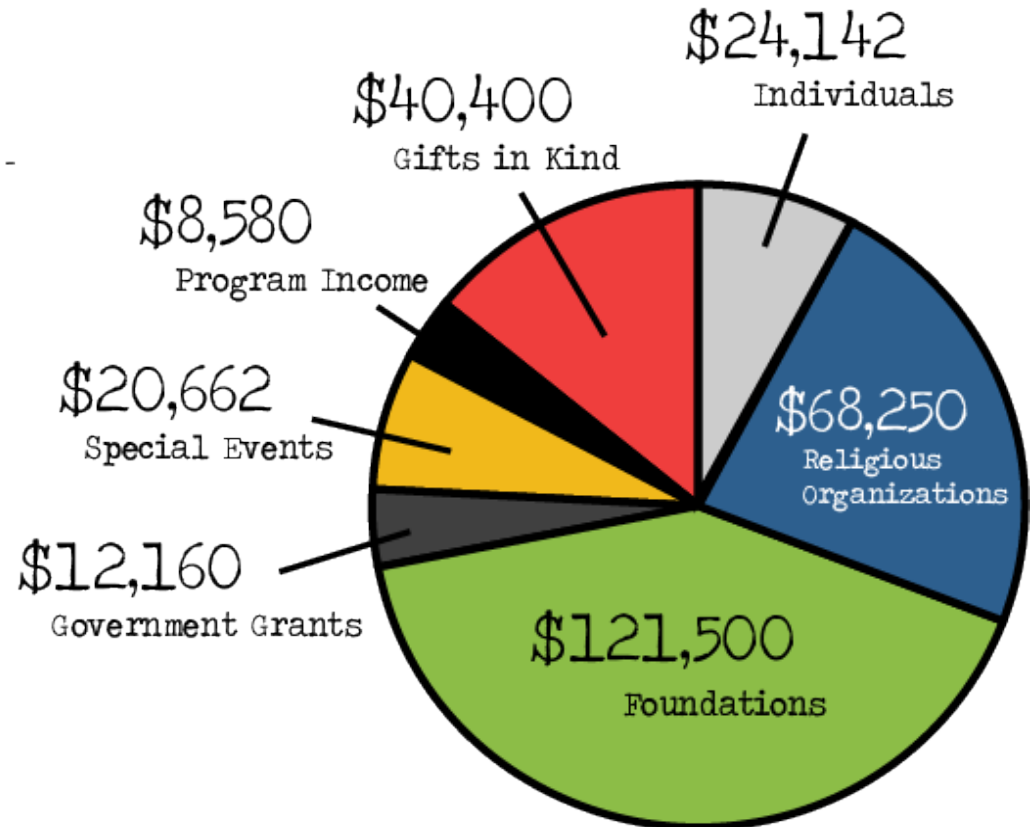


Total Expenses:

\$265,968

Total Income:

\$295,694





Grupo Cultural

Cultural Awareness



Grupo Cultural provides an inexpensive social outlet and a way for the many members of Mayan descent to connect to the culture of home. Since 2015, CIF has partnered with the International Mayan League, whose purpose is to preserve and promote the culture of the Mayan people. CIF has provided opportunities to: learn to play the traditional marimba, share stories and concerns through theatrical performances, and participate in Convite (costumed line dancing) and salsa dance groups. In September 2017, the International Mayan League offered a week-long workshop here in Centreville that focused on youth in the community learning about Mayan art and culture. The workshop was conducted by Grupo Sotz'il, a world renowned Kaqchikel Maya ensemble from Guatemala. At the conclusion of the workshop, the young people performed an original dance that they developed with Grupo Sotz'il. The dance addressed protecting the earth and how pollution and litter cause harm to the environment. It was an amazing opportunity for young people in our community to learn from these professional dancers.



A Worker's Story



CAMILO

Camilo left uncertainty and doubtful job opportunities in Guatemala and set out north with the hopes of a better future. He settled in Centreville, but struggled to find a job until “a friend told me that there was a center where I could find work that paid fairly.”

Camilo has enjoyed the benefits of having an organized and safe space where he and others can find work opportunities. Yet, he has taken advantage of more than just the job services at the Center. He actively participates in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes while he waits for work. He attended a march for immigration reform, along with others from Centreville Immigration Forum.

In May, an employer was looking for temporary help with his landscaping business and Camilo went out with him for the day. The employer “liked how I worked, so he decided to bring me on full time.” The employer has “taught me to use many different machines that are used in our work. When it is busy I work seven days a week—no days off— and my boss works just as hard. He is a very noble

man.” Camilo appreciates that he has secure, steady work with a small business owner.

Camilo believes that if you are “honest and work hard, you achieve a lot.” He is one example of many workers who find opportunities and inspiration at the Center. His dedication and desire to improve his economic situation are shared by many others. Camilo is an example of the realization of the mission of CIF.





The CCLJ

Centreville Commission for Labor Justice

The Centreville Commission for Labor Justice (CCLJ) was formed to help community members recover lost wages and prevent future loss resulting from wage theft. Since its inception in 2015, CCLJ has gained a strong reputation for success. The group empowers community members by supporting them taking the lead in the wage recovery process. In 2017, the CCLJ opened 34 cases, representing approximately \$31,300 in stolen wages. Fifteen cases were resolved through direct negotiation and eleven cases were still in process as the calendar year ended. Eight cases were abandoned by the complainant. Through the process, \$9,192 in wages was recovered.

Despite the success, CCLJ members were frustrated by the weakness of wage laws in our state and decided to partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy to make changes. In a joint effort, our organizations were strong advocates of legislation introduced to implement change at the state level. On December 7, 2017, CIF received the VICPP Distinguished Ally Award for CCLJ's work addressing the issue of wage theft and for its success in negotiating the repayment of lost wages.



\$9,192

lost wages recovered in 2017

Building Community



Holiday celebrations are an important part of Centreville Immigration Forum goal to give immigrants the opportunity to become more integrated into the community. They are an important support to people who are far from home and family. Fourth of July offers a time to reflect on the promises of this country and the values it was founded on. CIF sponsors a soccer tournament, BBQ and children's activities make the day festive. In November the annual CIF Thanksgiving dinner included a live DJ and was a success thanks to the hard work by members of the Directiva worker leadership council. Special thanks to Jorge Castro, Abel Gonzalez, Pedro Brito, and Pedro Cedillo for making this event come together. A Christmas celebration at the Labor Center ended the year on a positive note, with gift card giveaways and a pot luck supper. Planning and publicizing social events is an excellent way for members to build leadership skills.

Each semester CIF partners with George Mason University's (GMU) School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution to provide speakers for classes studying immigration. The goal is to highlight the variety of reasons people from different countries make the dangerous journey to the United States. Our members are pivotal to the success of CIF, and one of their contributions is sharing of their stories: Why did they leave their countries? What hardships and struggles did they face? What are their goals and aspirations? The presentations they make, not only at GMU but at local churches, educate the community at large about immigration, and strengthen the members' leadership and public speaking skills.





Fundraising

The 7th Annual International Showcase



The 7th annual CIF International Showcase was held on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville. Thanks to volunteers and donations from across the community, it was a great success. Almost 500 people enjoyed learning about the cultures of Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Ireland, Ghana and other countries. Highlights of the evening included musical performances from ten different groups and foods from a variety of restaurants. Attendees included community members, elected officials, CIF volunteers and other supporters. In total, \$8,000 was raised for CIF and its programs.

Annual Dinner

The CIF Annual Awards Dinner recognized three immigrants who have made a significant contribution to the local community. Diana Katz is a philanthropist and consultant to non-profits, originally from Puerto Rico. Kofi Dennis, born in Ghana, is a Master Teaching Artist who uses African drumming to spread cultural understanding. Mukit Hossain, from Bangladesh, received a posthumous award as a distinguished activist who mobilized the Muslim community to respond to social service needs in the community, before his death in 2010.



Many Thanks

to all of our supporters!



FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

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Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
(Grymes Fund)
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
(Wyman Fund)
Consumer Health Foundation
Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Kendall Philanthropic Gift Fund
LWH Family Foundation
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
The Peter & Mary Levin Family Foundation
Ray Solem Foundation
RMF Family Trust
USCCB Catholic Campaign for
Human Development
Wolf Run Foundation

FAITH COMMUNITIES

Centreville United Methodist Church
Floris United Methodist Church
Korean Central Presbyterian Church
Potomac Association United Church of Christ
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church
United Christian Parish
Wellspring United Church of Christ



Many Thanks

to all of our supporters!

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Alpha Delta Kappa—Gamma Theta Chapter

Alpha Delta Kappa—Tau Chapter

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